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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 SAM-01 /062 W
---------- 043046
R 052051Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2068
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
CINCSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 814

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CI, PE, BL
SUBJECT: PINOCHET-BANZER MEETING; RELATIONS WITH PERU

REF: SANTIAGO 0464

1. SUMMARY: FONMINISTRY ANNOUNCED FEB 4 THAT PRES. PINOCHET WILL MEET WITH BOLIVIAN PRES. BANZER FEB 8 AT CHARANA, ON CHILE-BOLIVIA BORDER. MEETING IS SAID TO BE IN SPIRIT OF DECLARATION OF AYACHUCHO, AND IS BEING GIVEN MAJOR PRESS ATTENTION. PINOCHET WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN CARVAJAL. WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BROKEN SINCE 1962 WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING MEETING OR WITHIN RELATIVELY SHORT TIME THEREAFTER; TIME IS RIPE AND RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WOULD APPEAR TO OFFER ATTRACTIONS TO BOTH PARTIES.

2. PINOCHET STATED IN IQUIQUE THAT WAR WITH PERU WOULD BE "INSANITY". END SUMMARY

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3. AS REPORTED REFTEL, PRES. PINOCHET HAS BEEN ON TOUR OF

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NORTHERN CHILE SINCE JAN 31, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS MINISTERS OF FINANCE, PUBLIC WORKS, MINES, ETC. FONMINISTRY ISSUED COMMUNIQUE FEB 4 ANNOUNCING PINOCHET HAS INVITED BOLIVIAN PRES. BANZER TO MEET WITH HIM SATURDAY FEB 8 AT CHARANA, ISOLATED BORDER POST ON ARICA-LA PAZ RAILROAD NEAR INTERSECTION WITH PERUVIAN BORDER. COMMUNIQUE CITES SPIRIT OF AYACHUCHO DECLARATION, AND EVIDENCE OF GOOD RELATIONS DEVELOPED BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND CHILE SINCE MEETING OF PINOCHET AND BANZER IN BRAZIL IN MARCH 1974. PINOCHET WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN CARVAJAL AND SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS WHO ARE ON TOUR WITH HIM.

4. CHILEAN NEWS MEDIA ARE GIVING MAJOR PLAY TO MEETING, RELYING PRIMARILY ON CABLE AGENCY STORIES OUT OF LA PAZ. HEADLINE TREATMENT WAS GIVEN TO REPORTED BANZER ASSURANCE THAT ACCESS TO SEA IS NOT RPT NOT "PRECONDITION" FOR RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (BROKEN SINCE 1962 OVER DISPUTE ON USE OF WATERS OF LAUCA RIVER).

5. IN PUBLIC ADDRESS IN IQUIQUE FEB 4, PINOCHET SAID HE HAD INVITED PRES. VELASCO OF PERU TO MEET WITH HIM BUT THAT FOR REASONS OF HEALTH VELASCO COULD NOT ACCEPT. INVITATION WAS THEN EXTENDED TO BANZER.

6. IN SAME SPEECH PINOCHET HIT HARD AT RUMORS OF WAR BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND WAR "PSYCHOSIS" IN TALKS WITH RESIDENTS IN NORTHERN AREA. WAR WITH PERU WOULD BE "INSANITY"; NO ONE WOULD LEAD THE NATION (CHILE) IMTO WAR, FROM WHICH IT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO RECOVER. THERE CAN BE NO WAR BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WHOSE PRESIDENTS ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR THEIR PEOPLE. "COUNTRIES RENEW THEIR OBSOLETE MILITARY EQUIPMENT", PINOCHET SAID, "AND THAT IS HOW I INTERPRET THE ACTIONS OF OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, FROM WHOM I HAVE RECEIVED GREAT EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP".

7. COMMENT: SINCE COUP OF SEPT 1973, GOC HAS GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY TO NOURISHMENT OF CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN CONE NEIGHBORS. BOLIVIA IS OF INTEREST PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF GOC CONCERN LEST IT SUPPORT PERU IN CASE OF CONFLICT. GOC CONFIDENTIAL

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THEREFORE HAS TRIED TO REMOVE BASIS FOR ANY BOLIVIAN DISSATISFACTION WITH GOC TREATMENT OF ITS TRANSIT RIGHTS THROUGH CHILE, AND FROM CHILE'S POINT OF VIEW THERE IS NO BAR TO IMMEDIATE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT WAS BOLIVUA WHICH BROKE RELATIONS AND AS LONG AS BOLIVIA DOES NOT INSIST ON "SOLUTION" OF ITS LAND-LOCKED STATUS AS A PRECONDITION, WE THINK GOC WOULD GLADLY RENEW THEM. SUCH ACTION WOULD PROVIDE DIPLOMATIC COVER FOR CHILE'S FLANK DURING

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TENSION WITH PERU, PERHAPS INCLINE BOLIVIANS TOWARD CHILE, OR MORE LIKELY TOWARD NEUTRALITY, IN CASE OF WAR, AND PERHAPS REASSURE BOLIVIA THAT CHILE WOULD NOT VIOLATE BOLIVIAN TERRITORY TO GET AT PERU IN THAT EVENT. RUMORS HAVE FLOATED IN CHILE OF POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF RELATIONS DURING EARLY 1975. SCENE SEEMS SET FOR SUCH ACTION.

8. PINOCHET'S COMMENTS ON TENSIONS WITH PERU CAN BE TAKEN AS GENUINE REFLECTION OF GOC ATTITUDE, AND AS STILL ANOTHHER EFFORT TO CONVINCE EVERYONE INTERESTED THAT WAR IS (OR SHOULD BE) UNTHINKABLE. BUT PROTESTATIONS OF BELIEF IN VELASCO'S ASSURANCES OF FRIENDSHIP ARE BELIED BY FACT THAT CHILE'S MILITARY LEADERS, FROM PINOCHET ON DOWN, FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT AN ATTACK FROM PERU IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT PROBABLE, DURING 1975. PINOCHET'S SUMMIT DIPLOMACY WITH BANZER IS CLEARLY AN EFFORT TO SUBSTITUTE DIPLOMACY FOR THE WEAPONS WHICH CHILE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACQUIRE, AND TO KEEP BOLIVIA AT LEAST NEUTRAL IN THE PLAY OF TENSIONS BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU.
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